

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 AID-05 CU-02

SCCT-01 /087 W

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R 021945Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8001

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 1705

E.O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PINS, ES

SUBJ: COMMUNISTS HOLD CENTER STAGE ON MAY DAY

REF: SAN SALVADOR A-48

USCINCS FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY - COMMUNIST-LED FEDERATIONS HELD CENTER STAGE ON MAY DAY WITH A LARGE, PEACEFUL PARADE AND RALLY. IN ADDITION TO STANDARD BREAD - AND - BUTTER THEMES, THE RALLY HAILED THE VICTORY OF "ANTI-IMPERIALIST" FORCES IN VIETNAM AND CALLED FOR THE CREATION OF A FRENTTEAMPLIO TO PARTICIPATION IN THE UPCOMING NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

ONCE GAIN IN DISARRAY, THE "DEMOCRATIC" FORCES HELD SMALLER, LESS CONSPICUOUS CEREMONIES. IN A NATIONAL RADIO ADDRESS, PRESIDENT MOLINA PROMISED A WAGE INCREASE FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES NEXT YEAR. THE MAJOR ACT OF VIOLENCE KNOWN TO HAVE OCCURRED WAS THE APRIL
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30 KILLING OF TWO TREASURY POLICE IN SAN MIGUEL, OSTENSIBLY BY

ERP GUERRILLAS. END SUMMARY

2. THE COMMUNIST-LED LABOR FEDERATIONS FUSS AND FESTIAVTSCES STAGED AN ORDERLY PARADE AND OUTDOOR RALLY ATTENDED BY SOME 5,000 PERSONS ON MAY 1. THE DEMONSTRATION WAS CO-SPONSERED BY ATACES, A COMMUNIST-DOMINATED CAMPESINO ORGANIZATION, AND FENASTRAS, A LABOR FEDERATION OF AMBIGUOUS POLITICAL ORIENTATION WHICH HAS THROWN ITS LOT IN WITH FUSS. ALSO REPRESENTED WERE SIX INDEPENDENT UNIONS AND SEVERAL UNIVERSITY STUDENT GROUPS. THE STANDARD BREAD - AND BUTTER DEMANDS WERE OVERSHADOWED THIS YEAR BY TWO POLITICAL THEMES: VIETNAM AND THE "FRENTE AMPLIO." THE ERCHERS, ESPECIALLY THE STUDENTS, CARRIED NUMEROUS SIGNS REFERRING TO RECENT EVENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND CHANTS OF "HO, HO, HO CHI MINH" WERE REPEATEDLY HEARD. SPEAKER AFTER SPEAKER EXULTED OVER THE "DEFEAT OF NORTH AMERICAN IMPERIALISM" IN VIETNAM. THE MOST EFFECTIVE SPEAKERS WERE FUSS FIRST GRIEVANCE SECRETARY JULIO CESAR CASTRO BELLOSO AND FUSS SECRETARY GENERAL AND UDN DEPUTY RAFAEL AQUINADA CARRANZA, BOTH OF WHOM CALLED FOR THE FORMATION OF A FRENTE AMPLIO OF

WORKERS, PEASANTS, STUDENTS, INTELLECTUALS, CLERGY AND MILITARY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MARCH 1976 LEGISLATIVE/MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

3. THE "DEMOCRATIC" LABOR GROUPS AGAIN APPEARED IN DISARRAY. EFFORTS TO HOLD A JOINT CELEBRATION IN A DOWNTOWN THEATER FLOUNDERED, THE VICTIM OF TRADITIONAL JEALOUSIES. THE FINANCIALLY STRAPPED ORIT AFFILIATE, CGS, AND ITS MINUSCUBSIDE-KICK, FESTRAS, HELD A INDOOR ASSEMBLY AT CGS HEADQUARTERS. FESINCONSTRANS, AN EARLY LEADER IN THE EFFORT TO REUNITE THE "DEMOCRATIC" FORCES, WAS FORCED TO WITHDRAW ITS SUPPORT FOR THE IDEA UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM FUSS. FESINCONSTRANS SECRETARY GENERAL FELIPE ANTONIO ZALDIVAR, A WILY OPPORTUNIST, OWES A NUMBER OF DEBTS TO FUSS FOR ITS SUPPORT OF HIS EFFORTS IN 1974 TO RESIST A CGS-LED CAMPAIGN TO DESTROY HIS BASE, THE SUTC CONSTRUCTION WORKERS UNION, AND FOR HIS ELECTION TO A SALARIED POSITION ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SOCIAL FUND FOR HOUSING. THE TEN UNIONS WHICH FOLLOWED JOSE ALBERTO GOMEZ OUT OF FENASTRAS IN 1974 AND THE UNION COMUNAL SALVADORENA (UCS), EL SALVADOR'S LARGEST CAMPESINO ORGANIZATION, ALSO REFUSED TO

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JOIN THE CGS' CELEBRATION.

4. IN A NATIONAL RADIO ADDRESS, PRESIDENT MOLINA PROMISED AN UNSPECIFIED WAGE INCREASE IN 1976 FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

5. THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF CANDALISM TR VIOLENCE. ON APRIL 30, HOWEVER, EIGHT ARMED PERSONS KILLED TWO TREASURY POLICE AT AN OUTPOSE IN SAN MIGUEL DEPARTMENT. THE

ATTACKERS REPORTEDLY TOOK THE AGENTS' ARMS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT. THEY ALLEGEDLY LEFT BEHIND A NUMBER OF PAMPHLETS IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES AS MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUNTIONARY ARMY, ERP.

6. COMMENT - IN A RAOL SENSE, THE 1976 ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN BEGAN WITH THE FUSS RALLY. THE "FRENTE AMPLIO" IDEA FAST SURFACED AT THE MARCH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UDN, THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S ELECTORAL ARM (REFAIR). THUS FAR, THERE ARE FEW SIGNS THAT THE UDN HAS MADE ANY PROGRESS TOWARD ITS ESTABLISHMENT. AS A FIRST STEP FUSS, FESTIAVTSCES AND FENASTRAS WILL MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO CONSTITUTE THE CENTRAL UNICA DE TRABAJADORES SALVADORENOS (CUTS). IF THEY SUCCEED, THEY MAY ABLE TO ATTRACT MANY WORKERS WHO ARE FRUSTRATED WITH THE LABOR MOVEMENT'S CONTINUED INABILITY TO INFLUENCE PUBLIC POLICY.
CAMPBELL

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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